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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Combined Transport
Working Party on Rail Transport

Joint Meeting of the
Working Parties on Combined Transport
and Rail Transport
(19 April 2001)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST SESSION

**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 hours on Thursday, 19 April 2001 ^{*/}**

^{*/} For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. There will be no documentation available in the meeting room.

Before the meeting, missing documents may be obtained directly from the ECE Transport Division (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; e-mail: martin.magold@unece.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the Internet web site of the UN/ECE Transport Division (www.unece.org/trans). During the meeting, documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.111, 1st floor, Palais des Nations).

In accordance with the accreditation procedures applicable for all meetings held at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to fill-in the attached registration form (also available from the web site of the UN/ECE Transport Division (www.unece.org)) and to transmit the duly filled-in form at the latest one week before the session to the UN/ECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (martin.magold@unece.org). In Geneva, prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (see attached map), for issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulties, please phone the UN/ECE secretariat (Int. 72453).

1. Adoption of the agenda
TRANS/WP.24/2001/1
TRANS/SC.2/2001/2
2. Election of officers
3. The role of railways in the promotion of combined transport
 - (a) Current situation of combined transport
TRANS/WP.24/2001/2
TRANS/SC.2/2001/3
Informal document No. 1 (2001)
Informal document No. 3 (2000)
 - (b) Problems encountered in combined transport operations
TRANS/WP.24/2001/3
TRANS/SC.2/2001/4
TRANS/WP.24/89
Informal documents (available at the session)
 - (c) Possible solutions to overcome problems and best practices
TRANS/WP.24/2001/4
TRANS/SC.2/2001/5
TRANS/WP.24/2001/5
TRANS/SC.2/2001/6
Informal documents (available at the session)
4. Conclusions and follow-up actions to be taken by the Working Parties

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda of the joint meeting (TRANS/WP.24/2001/1-TRANS/SC.2/2001/2).

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, the Joint Meeting will have to elect a Chairperson or Chairpersons for its session.

3. THE ROLE OF RAILWAYS IN THE PROMOTION OF COMBINED TRANSPORT

(a) Current situation of combined transport

The Joint Meeting may wish to take note of and consider briefly the current situation of combined transport as well as national measures to promote combined transport undertaken by Governments and international organizations.

As a basis for discussion, the Joint Meeting may wish to take note of secretariat document TRANS/WP.24/2001/2-TRANS/SC.2/2001/3 containing some facts and figures on combined transport developments, first answers to an ECMT questionnaire on national measures for the development of combined transport (Informal document No. 1 (2001)) and a report on the development of combined transport in Hungary in 1999 (Informal document No. 3 (2000)).

Participants are expected to inform briefly the Joint Meeting on the current situation of combined transport in their respective countries ("tour de table").

(b) Problems encountered in combined transport operations

The Working Parties may wish to have an exchange of views on this item based on information provided by Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations focusing in particular on the following items: Infrastructure problems; operational problems; interoperability problems; prices, tariffs and cost structures; regulatory policies; specific problems for combined transport in countries in transition.

In this respect, the Joint Meeting may wish to take account of the views expressed by the Working Party on Combined Transport at its thirty-fourth session (TRANS/WP.24/89, paras. 41-48) and a note prepared by the Chairman of the Working Party on Combined Transport in September 2000 (TRANS/WP.24/2001/3-TRANS/SC.2/2001/4).

The joint meeting may also wish to consider documents to be prepared by UIC, UIRR, EIA, GETC, IRU, the European Commission and others which will be circulated as soon as available.

(c) Possible solutions to overcome problems and best practices

The Joint Meeting is devoted to the discussion of the question as to how railways and combined transport operators can work more closely as partners to their mutual advantage and what railways can do to improve combined transport services.

The Joint Meeting may wish to consider how Governments could change framework conditions under which combined transport services are carried out.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (TRANS/2001/5, para. 22) the Joint Meeting should consider the use of a single management system in international combined transport operations.

A summary of a UIRR study entitled “Developing a quality strategy for combined transport” is contained in document TRANS/WP.24/2001/4-TRANS/SC.2/2001/5. The Joint Meeting may wish to take note, as an example of best practice, of a charter signed by FNTR, GNTC, SNCF and NOVATRANS aiming at the promotion of combined transport in France (TRANS/WP.24/2001/5-TRANS/SC.2/2001/6).

4. CONCLUSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE WORKING PARTIES

The results of the Joint Meeting should provide guidance to the Working Party on Combined Transport (WP.24) and to the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) and should in particular indicate which, if any, of its activities should be further pursued or whether new work should be taken up at the intergovernmental level to promote combined transport involving rail.

In particular, the Joint Meeting should clarify the possibilities and limitations of existing and/or new railway companies in the promotion of combined transport and international combined transport in particular. If, due to the high service quality indispensable for efficient and competitive combined transport services, it is perceivable that railways may not be in a position, in spite of supportive Governmental activities, to provide in the foreseeable future for the necessary improvements in service quality in this market segment, new perspectives and a possible re-direction of Governmental transport policies vis-à-vis combined transport involving rail might have to be considered in order to cope with the increasing transport volumes in a sustainable manner.

Following the joint meeting, the UN/ECE secretariat will establish a report summarizing the outcome of the discussions. This report may then serve as a basis for consideration at the forthcoming sessions of the Working Party on Combined Transport (3-5 September 2001) and the Working Party on Rail Transport (16-18 October 2001).



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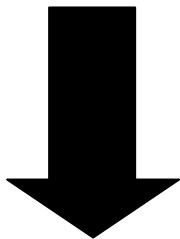
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